



Iowa Range

statewide

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.

volvox

Volvox spp.

Kingdom: Protista
Division/Phylum: Chlorophyta

Features

Volvox spp. are colonial green algae. Colonies can consist of several hundred cells arranged in a hollow ball. The cells are held together by a sheath of mucous. The flagella on the individual cells extend outside the colony. An eyespot is present in each cell.

Natural History

There is a division of labor among the cells. Reproduction occurs by asexual and sexual methods and a colony may contain daughter colonies. Movement of the flagella results in a rotation of the colony. These organisms make their own food.

Habitats

Mississippi River; Missouri River; interior rivers and streams; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; natural lakes and prairie marshes; wet prairies and fens; bottomland forests

Iowa Status

common, native